



Flying Field to Air Force Base



Lieutenant Hap Arnold, 1911, student pilot trained at this flying field by Orville Wright

The vast base you see all around you started in 1917 as a World War I Army Signal Corps post called Wilbur Wright Field. The installation grew through the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, matching the needs of the United States for aeronautical research, development, and logistics. Since the creation of a separate United States Air Force in 1947, the Wright brothers' flying field and aviation school has been part of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

More than anyone I have ever known or read about, the Wright brothers gave me a sense that nothing is impossible. I like to think — and during World War II, often did — that the Air Force has rooted its traditions in that spirit.

General Hap Arnold, Father of the Air Force

Military Aviation Comes of Age over Ohio

Generations of American military aircraft — from flying machines of spruce and canvas to high-tech jets — have been tested and

flown here, in the same airspace where the Wright brothers worked.



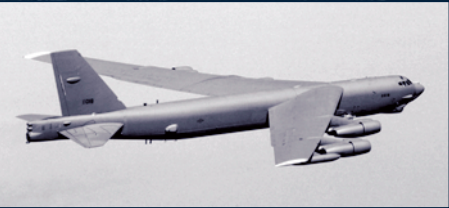
Wright Model E 1913



DeHavilland DH-4 Liberty 1918



Lockheed P-38 Lightning 1942



Boeing B-52 Stratofortress 1965



Lockheed F-22 Raptor 2002

Huffman Prairie
Flying Field
1904–1916